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NOTES.

The death of Sir Roderick Impey Murchison occurred on the 22d of October, at the age of seventy-nine. He was not a graduate of either of the great universities, but like Faraday, Miller and several other prominent English scientists is said to have had in early life only an ordinary education. He studied at the Military College at Marlow, and was an officer in the army from 1807 to 1816. In 1831 he began to study geology practically and at the end of five years published his celebrated Silurian system. In 1836 he was employed in the geological survey of Russia. He contributed over a hundred memoirs to scientific journals, and was among the first to call attention to the Australian gold fields. He was long President of the Geological Society of London, and at the time of his death was President of the Royal Geological Society.

The U. S. Coast Survey Steamer *F. R. Hassler*, commander P. C. Johnson, U. S. N., now arrived at Boston, will be despatched as soon as ready to the coast of California for the survey for which she is designed.

Prof. Peirce, Superintendent of the Coast Survey, to make this long voyage by way of the Straits of Magellan as profitable as possible to science, has offered to Prof. Agassiz the direction of a scientific party to sail in her, and pursue during the voyage deep sea researches and investigations in natural history at the different points of stoppage. The party will consist of Prof. Agassiz as director (accompanied by Mrs. Agassiz,) Ex-President Hill of Harvard College as physicist, Assist. L. F. Pourtales of the Coast Survey in charge of deep sea dredgings, Dr. Steindachner as ichthyologist, Mr. Blake as ichthyologist and draughtsman. Some of the officers of the ship have also qualified themselves to assist in various researches. The point at which the steamer will probably stop will be Bermuda, Trinidad, Rio Janeiro, Montevideo, the Falkland Islands, the Straits of Magellan, Juan Fernandez, the Gallapagos. The ship is fitted out with a special view to deep sea soundings and dredgings, and with all possible contrivances for catching fish, etc..